

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6214

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION AT NAC MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 270062

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL, CHARGE APPROACHED SEPARATELY SYG LUNS, KRAPF (FRG), DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM), AND KILLICK (UK) ON NOVEMBER 14 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDRESSING STANDARDIZATION AT NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. LUNS APPRECIATED US INTEREST IN SEEKING MOST PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, DOUBTED THAT US PREFERENCE WOULD PREVAIL, BUT SUGGESTED US DELEGATION CIRCULATE ITS VIEWS BY LETTER AS BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG PERMREPS. HE PROMISED TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO THE EXTENT OF HIS ABILITY.

3. KRAPF INDICATED THAT FRG HAD AN OPEN MIND ON THE MEETINGS SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT BONN SUPPORT US PREFERENCE.

4. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THE EFFICIENCY INVOLVED IN THE US PROPOSAL, HE FELT THAT TIME SPENT BY DEFENSE MINISTERS AT MORNING SESSION OF NAC MEETING DECEMBER 11 FOR DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION WOULD BE WELL SPENT. ADVANTAGE OF THIS APPROACH, HE SAID, WAS THAT IT WOULD AVOID INEVITABLE US CONFRONTATION WITH THE FRENCH INVOLVED IN INSISTING THAT NAC DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION TAKE PLACE
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FOLLOWING DECEMBER 10 DPC SESSION. HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD SEE US PROPOSAL AS "A TRAP" TO ENGAGE THEM IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTERS WHICH THE FRENCH PRESS WOULD CONSTRUE AS A STEP TOWARD MILITARY INTEGRATION.

HE SAW NO WAY THAT THE FRENCH, THEREFORE, COULD BE FROUGH TO AGREE. MOREOVER, BY SIMPLY REFUSING TO ATTEND A NAC MEETING HELD DECEMBER 10, FRENCH COULD IMPOSE A UNILATERAL VETO. IF THE US OBJECTIVE WAS TO STIMULATE STANDARDIZATION AMONG THE FIFTEEN, IT WOULD NOT BE SERVED IN THIS MANNER, HE SAID. SPEAKING ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS, HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE-DESIGNATE TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH HIS FIRST DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH NATO IN HIS NEW POSITION ENTAILED AN UNPLEASANT AND POSSIBLY ACRIMONIOUS SITUATION. FOR THESE REASONS, HE COUNSELED STRONGLY AGAINST PURSUING US PROPOSAL WHICH HE BELIEVED DOOMED TO COSTLY FAILURE.

5. KILLICK SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES EARLIER HAD CONSIDERED AND REJECTED A PROPOSAL ALONG THE LINES OF US PREFERENCE. WHILE HE WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS BASED UPON HIS REPORT OF PERMREP LUNCH DISCUSSION (USNATO 6155), HE SAID THAT HE HAD DESCRIBED US PROPOSAL TO HIS AUTHORITIES AS A "NON-STARTER" IN THE LIGHT OF REACTIONS EXPRESSED BY DE STAERCKE, TINE (FRANCE) AND LUNS AT PERMREP LUNCH. ACCORDINGLY, HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD AGREE WITH HIS VIEW.

6. MINISTERIAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR NAC DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 19 AND NO DOUBT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT PERMREP LUNCH NOVEMBER 18. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY REFTTEL IN OUR FURTHER APPROACHES HERE. STREATOR

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